

**EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING  
100 NORTH ANDREWS AVENUE, 1<sup>ST</sup> FLOOR CHAMBERS  
FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA  
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2014 – 6:30 P.M.**

<b>Members</b>	<b>Attendance</b>	<b>April 2014- APRIL 2015</b>	
		<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Chester Ludwick, <b>Chair</b>	P	4	1
Edna Elijah, <b>Vice-Chair</b>	P	4	1
Gregory T. Boardman	A	4	1
Towana Bonaparte	P	2	0
Maureen S. Dinnen	A	2	3
Rochelle Horowitz	P	4	1
Deniece Jones	P	4	0
Jennifer L. Kimmey	P	4	1
Dr. Magdalene Lewis	A	1	4
Wayne Neunie	A	2	3
Dr. Maureen Persi	P	4	1
Catherine Pliess	P	3	1
Austin Scott	P	5	0
Lillian Small	A	0	5
Shelby Smith	P	5	0
S. Carey Villeneuve	P	1	0

**Appointed Members to the Board: 16**

**Needed to constitute a quorum: 9**

**Staff**

Junia Robinson, Neighbor Support and Staff Liaison

Charles Webster, Broward County Public Schools (BCPS)

**I. Opening – Chair, Chester Ludwick**

**II. Attendance by Roll Call – Junia Robinson, Staff Liaison**

- Introduce New member: S. Carey Villeneuve

**Determination of quorum**

As of this date, September 18, 2014 there are 16 appointed members to the board, which means 9 would constitute a quorum. At this time, there is a quorum.

**III. Approve minutes** (August 21, 2014)

**Motion** by Mrs. Elijah, seconded by Dr. Persi, that the said minutes for August 21, 2014 be approved. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

**IV. Current business**

**A. BCPS update:** Charles Webster

Mr. Webster announced the first “Conversation with the District” meeting took place at Northeast High School on Monday, September 08<sup>th</sup>. He also announced the dates for the future meetings and encouraged the Board to attend at least one of the meetings.

Mr. Webster announced the BCPS upcoming “Ed Talk” event scheduled for November. He explained that this event which is held at the Broward County Convention Center allows every constituent in the community to give feedback on a variety of questions.

The Student Opportunity Schools Initiative “SSOS” has started again for this year. Mr. Webster said the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting was at Arthur Ashe on September 15<sup>th</sup>. He shared with the Board that the City has 3 schools on the “SSOS” list, they are: Norfolk, Walker and Thurgood Elementary.

Mr. Webster explained the “SSOS” initiative for those who are not familiar “BCPS have some schools that are not performing as we would like, there are some “F” schools and it’s mandatory by State statute that we come up with an improvement plan to change that F. There are 5 State options that we can take advantage of but I will not go into all of that; suffice to say that we have done this over the past couple of years. This gives us the opportunity to devote additional resources and out of the box thinking”. Mr. Webster continued by saying “here in the City of Fort Lauderdale we changed over Lauderdale Manors elementary that became a community resource center/early learning center, Sunland park became a pre-k to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. He said “we don’t know what’s going to come out with these schools or what approach we are going to take”. He mentioned Arthur Ashe was a middle school and the community came together and said “they

need jobs, a workforce center". The school has now been transitioned to Atlantic Technical College and Technical High School. Mrs. Elijah reported that Dillard High School received an A grade and the students that were at Arthur Ashe middle school are now at Dillard (6<sup>th</sup> thru 8<sup>th</sup> grade). She continued by saying "since they have repurposing the schools a year and a half ago, positive things are happening to our failing schools."

Mr. Webster reported that one of the Staff members at the Dillard 6<sup>th</sup> thru 8<sup>th</sup> grade school received a national recognition in the special education program. He also said that Principal Cassandra Robinson, Dillard High school has been recognized as one of the top principals in the country.

Mr. Webster said both Dillard and Sunland Park received there very first A grade and they are looking forward to more positive results from the schools that have been repurposed.

Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Association representative, Betty Shelley said she attended the "Conversation with the District" meeting that was held at Northeast High school. Ms. Betty said the meeting was very well attended and the set up with the furniture that was donated in a living room style atmosphere was very interesting and relaxing. The Superintendent and School Board member Heather Brinkworth answered questions from people who came up on the stage and sat next to them on the chairs. Ms. Betty said the atmosphere made everyone feel relaxed and comfortable.

Mrs. Elijah invited the Board to her Homeowners Association meeting scheduled for Wednesday, October 02<sup>nd</sup>. Dr. Desmond Blackburn will be the guest speaker and presenting on the \$800 million bond proposal. She said the location is at 1340 Chateau Park Drive and it starts at 7:00 PM.

Rochelle Horowitz said that Mr. Runcie appeared at the Democratic Executive Committee (DEC) this past Tuesday and the DEC unanimously endorsed the Bond proposal.

Mr. Webster said the school Principals enjoyed giving presentations and once the Board is ready, he can invite the Principals back to the meetings. Chair

Ludwick says he would like to have Mr. Howard, Principal at Arthur Ashe Middle to give a presentation next.

Chair Ludwick commented that all the public schools are listed on City's website. He would like to thank Mark Dennin, with the City for coordinating the list to the City site. Mr. Austin Scott said he would get the private schools to Ms. Robinson by the end of the week.

### **B. Discussion- \$800 million school bond proposal**

Chair Ludwick opened the floor for discussion about the bond proposal.

Mr. Scott said based on the presentation last month, the board should consider ending the discussion no matter what is discussed. He said the board should take a stance on this proposal and submit to the Commission.

Chair Ludwick asked if anyone had a comment or suggestion related to the proposal. Shelby Smith asked to see a little more detail and the information provided is a "snapshot" and a good start.

Mrs. Elijah said rumors circulated that schools in the City of Fort Lauderdale and in the east were not scheduled on the list for renovations. She asked "if this is correct".

Mr. Smith said if they hold off on making a decision it may be too late. He said the Commissioners and Politicians in the city need to be involved in this now. Mr. Smith says his feeling on this is "we can support it by saying no we don't want to see any money being spent on the schools unless it's straight from our tax dollars or what the state gives or we can accept that the schools desperately need help and try and support what's here". Mrs. Elijah disagrees and thinks someone from BCPS should come back to the next meeting.

Mrs. Jennifer Kimmey commented "is this a fair allocation across the county and not just for political reasons".

The board continued discussion on the proposal and the distribution of funds allocated to City schools.

Dr. Persi agreed with Mr. Scott and Mr. Smith to move forward and give a decision to the Commission via communication as soon as possible. She said “waiting for October will be too late”.

Mrs. Jennifer Kimmey says the board should endorse the proposal with a caveat “that we trust the decision makers that are going to allocate the money properly”.

Chair Ludwick asked if someone would like to make the motion to support the \$800 million bond proposal.

**MOTION** Mrs. Elijah made a motion that the Education Advisory Board supports the Broward County Public Schools \$800 million bond proposal. Mr. Smith 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion but asked for discussion.

The board unanimously approved the motion.

#### **V. Communication to City Commission**

The Fort Lauderdale Education Advisory Board supports the \$800 million General Obligation Bond Proposal on the November 4<sup>th</sup> ballot. We endorse the Broward County Public Schools’ plans and trust the School Board and their staff will keep their promises to our local schools and the Fort Lauderdale citizens who use them.

In a voice vote, the Motion passed unanimously

#### **VI. New Future Business**

Vote for election for new Chair

Discussion – marketing initiative for City schools

Discussion - SSOS schools

#### **VII. Next Meeting and Closing**

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014

City Hall, 8<sup>th</sup> floor conference room

Chair Ludwick adjourned meeting at 8:33 P.M